

Originator

Item

**Park Improvement Projects Update**

Date

10/21/2015

Description

**City of Bloomington  
Parks & Recreation Improvement Projects Update  
October 21, 2015 - Item 4.D**

1. **Red Haddox Baseball Field Improvements** – Staff are still exploring options to improve the drainage of the small stormwater pond along the pathway to the south parking lot.
2. **Normandale Lake Park Parking Lot Reconstruction** – The turf areas adjacent to the parking lots may require overseeding, as they are somewhat sparse and weedy. Staff are working with Three Rivers Park District and the project contractor to address this matter.
3. **Valley View Playfield Tennis Courts** – The tennis court project has been completed.
4. **New Bike Racks** – The City is utilizing a State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant to purchase bike racks for installation in a number of City parks. We anticipate installing the concrete pads for the bike racks this fall, with the bike racks themselves being installed by spring 2016.
5. **Pond-Dakota Water Fountain** – the water fountain with bottle filler was installed in time for the annual River Rendezvous program.
6. **Izaak Walton Road Turn-Around** - Staff are developing plans to construct an “eyebrow” turn-around on park property at the end of Izaak Walton Road that will facilitate winter plowing of the road and provide a safe manner for vehicles to turn around. The area adjacent to the turn-around will also be the site for a natural resources restoration project. A letter regarding these two projects will be sent out to residents on Izaak Walton Road.
7. **Savanna Restoration Project** - Staff are working with Great River Greening to develop plans for a Savanna restoration project between Pond Dakota Mission Park and the Hopkins Landing. The project seeks to reduce standing canopy and dead down woody material in order to increase sunlight to the groundlayer and decrease ecosystem nitrogen loads that fuel invasion. Increased light to the groundlayer and reductions in soil nitrogen will allow us to stabilize bare soils with native groundlayer vegetation. Native seed will be spread in areas void of native vegetation. Most work will occur on terrain where machinery can assist in the woody harvest and long term management. Demonstration plots will occur on steep slopes where work is limited to hand tools. These demonstration plots are designed to provide feedback on techniques and costs associated with this type of restoration in order to better inform us for future funding cycles. This work will include at least one public volunteer event and one private event. The City would contribute \$30,000 in cash and \$10,000 in in-kind services to this project, which will leverage an additional \$60,000 in grant dollars through Great River Greening. A funding request for the City’s share of the project costs will go to Council in the next month.

8. **Southglen Park** – Staff are developing plans to install a new community garden northeast of the playground equipment. We are also recommending the demolition of the park shelter building, which was significantly damaged in last year's June floods. A letter will be sent out to the Southglen neighborhood informing them of the City's plans.
9. **Nine Mile Creek Lower Valley Stabilization Project** - Repairs to the creek banks and trails are anticipated to start in the week of October 19. The Project includes work at five sites to restore erosion damage following the June 2014 storms, with partial funding from FEMA and a cost share partnership with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. The somewhat consistent rains over the summer have kept flows at or above normal for this time of year, and with the 30 day outlook calling for above normal precipitation the schedule is tentative. The Project will utilize natural material stream stabilization methods of rock veins, tree root wads and "engineered log-jams" to redirect the flow into the center of the channel and protect the bank from erosion without full hard armoring. Partial trail closures will be required in the active construction areas, and major entry points will be posted to notify trail users of the closures. Full restoration of plant materials is expected in spring 2016.

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Requested Action

No action required.

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Attachments: